

REMARKS

Claim 11 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 11, at pages 3-4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,806,514 (“Tian”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 11. For example, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose a first image module communicatively coupled to a processing engine, the first image module operable to capture first image information, where the first image module does not include a computer readable memory, as in claim 11. In contrast to claim 11, Tian discloses an integrated circuit die having a digital pixel sensor (DPS) array and a frame buffer, which is a memory for storing image data. See Tian, Abstract, and col. 1, lines 44-45 (emphasis added). Further, Fig. 5 of Tian discloses a system including a pair of digital pixel sensors (DPS) array/frame buffer dies. See Tian, Fig. 5. In Tian, each DPS module includes at least a DPS array and a frame buffer. See Tian, Figs. 1-7, and col. 3, lines 17-20, and col. 4, lines 58-59. Thus, in Tian, each DPS module includes a computer readable memory. Hence, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose at least one element of claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable.

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-2 and 4-10, at pages 4-11 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,0159,954 (“Foote”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,097,023 (“Schofield”). Applicants have canceled claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Foote and Schofield do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor, the first image sensor lens module operable to capture a first view of a scene and to output first information representing the first view, as in claim 1. Instead, Foote discloses arrays of cameras. See Foote, col. 2, lines 41-44. Foote does not disclose internal components of the cameras. The cited

portions of Foote do not disclose a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor.

Further, the cited portions of Schofield do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor, the first image sensor lens module operable to capture a first view of a scene and to output first information representing the first view, as in claim 1. Instead, Schofield discloses an imaging sensor module that includes two or more pairs of photosensor arrays, each photosensor array having an associated spectral filter array and optical device. *See* Schofield, Fig. 6, and col. 8, lines 48-51. Thus, in contrast to claim 1, in Schofield each photosensor array has a corresponding lens that is spatially separated from the photosensor array, and the lens is not integrated with the photosensor array. *See* Schofield, Fig. 6 (emphasis added). Therefore, the cited portions of Foote and Schofield, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2 and 4-9 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claims 2 and 4-9 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable claim 1.

Further, the dependent claims include additional features that are not disclosed or suggested in the cited portions of Foote and Schofield. For example, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest a support having an exterior surface that includes the mounting surface, the support having a generally spherical geometry, as in claim 2. Instead, Foote discloses a circular array of video cameras, a planar array of cameras mounted on a rigid plane substrate and a linear array of cameras mounted on a rigid plane substrate. *See* Foote, Figs. 1A, 1B, 1C, and col. 5, lines 64-67. Further, the cited portions of Schofield do not disclose or suggest this element of claim 2. For this additional reason, claim 2 is allowable.

Claims 1, 3, and 23, 25-29, and 31-33 Are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 3, and 23-33, at pages 11-20 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a), as unpatentable over Tian and further in view of Foote. Applicants have canceled claims 24 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Tian and Foote do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor, the first image sensor lens module operable to capture a first view of a scene and to output first information representing the first view, as in claim 1. Instead, Tian discloses one or more DPS array/frame buffer dies 300, each die including a digital pixel sensor (DPS) array and a frame buffer. *See* Tian, Fig. 5, col. 4, line 59, and col. 5, lines 45-50. Further, Tian discloses a die 100 that includes a digital pixel sensor array, a frame buffer, control circuitry, processor, and input/output circuitry. *See* Tian, col. 3, lines 15-20. Tian does not disclose or suggest a module formed from integration of a lens and a sensor. The cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor.

Further, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor, the first image sensor lens module operable to capture a first view of a scene and to output first information representing the first view, as in claim 1. Instead, Foote discloses an array of video cameras mounted on a rigid substrate. *See* Foote, col. 5, lines 47-60. Foote does not disclose internal components of the cameras. The cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest a first image sensor lens module including a first lens integrated with a first sensor. Therefore, the cited portions of Tian and Foote, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, claim 3 depends from claim 1, and is therefore allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 1.

The cited portions Tian and Foote do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 23. For example, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest correlating a plurality of digital image sensors with different views of a scene, where at least one of the plurality of digital image sensors includes a lens integrated with a sensor, as in claim 23. Instead, Tian discloses one or more DPS array/frame buffer dies 300, each die including a digital pixel sensor (DPS) array and a frame buffer. *See* Tian, Fig. 5, col. 4, line 59, and col. 5, lines 45-50. Further, Tian discloses a die 100 that includes a digital pixel sensor array, a frame buffer, control circuitry, processor, and input/output circuitry. *See* Tian, col. 3, lines 15-20. Tian does not disclose or suggest a digital image sensor formed from integration of a lens and a sensor.

The cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest a digital image sensor that includes a first lens integrated with a first sensor.

Further, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest that at least one digital image sensor includes a lens integrated with a sensor, as in claim 23. Instead, Foote discloses an array of video cameras mounted on a rigid substrate. *See* Foote, col. 5, lines 47-60. Foote does not disclose internal components of the cameras. The cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest a digital image sensor that includes a first lens integrated with a first sensor. Therefore, the cited portions of Tian and Foote, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 23. Hence, claim 23 is allowable.

The cited portions of Tian and Foote do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 32. For example, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose that none of the plurality of image sensors includes a computer readable memory, as in claim 32. Instead, Tian discloses one or more DPS array/frame buffer dies 300, each die including a digital pixel sensor (DPS) array and a frame buffer. *See* Tian, Fig. 5, col. 4, line 59, and col. 5, lines 45-50 (emphasis added). Further, Tian discloses a die 100 that includes a digital pixel sensor array, a frame buffer, control circuitry, processor, and input/output circuitry. *See* Tian, col. 3, lines 15-20. The cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest that none of the plurality of image sensors includes a computer readable memory, as in claim 32. Further, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose that none of the plurality of image sensors includes a computer readable memory, as in claim 32. Instead, Foote discloses an array of video cameras mounted on a rigid substrate. *See* Foote, col. 5, lines 47-60. Foote does not disclose internal components of the cameras. The cited portions of Foote do not disclose that none of the plurality of image sensors includes a computer readable memory. Therefore, the cited portions of Tian and Foote, separately or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 32. Hence, claim 32 is allowable.

Claim 33 depends from claim 32, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, claim 33 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 32.

Claims 12 and 14-15, 17-19, and 21 Are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 12 and 14-21, at pages 20-27 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a), as unpatentable over Tian and further in view of Foote. Applicants have

canceled claims 16 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

As explained above, the cited portions of Tian do not disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 11, from which claims 14-15, 17-19, and 21 depend. The cited portions of Foote do not disclose or suggest the elements of claim 11 that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Tian. For example, the cited portions of Foote do not disclose a first image module communicatively coupled to a processing engine, the first image module operable to capture first image information, where the first image module does not include a computer readable memory, as in claim 11. Instead, Foote discloses an array of video cameras mounted on a rigid substrate. *See* Foote, col. 5, lines 47-60. The cited portions of Foote do not disclose that the first image module does not include a computer readable memory. Therefore, the cited portions of Tian and Foote, separately or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 11, or of claims 14-15, 17-19, and 21, which depend from claim 11. Hence, claims 14-15, 17-19, and 21 are allowable.

Claims 34-38 Are Allowable

New claims 34-38 are supported by the Specification. Claim 34 depends from claim 11, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, claim 34 is allowable. Claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, claim 35 and 36 are allowable. Claims 37 and 38 depend from claim 23, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, claims 37 and 38 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the cited references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

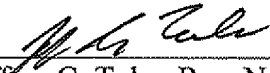
Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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